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ABSTRACT

Two papers on library and information activities in developing nations, particularly in India and other Asian countries, were presented at the 1983 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference. In "IFLA in Asia: A Review of the Work of the Regional Section for Asia," Edward Lim Huck Tee (Malaysia) describes the low level of Third World involvement in IFLA until the 1970's and IFLA's Eurocentric orientation. Lim Huck Tee evaluates the activities of the IFLA Working Group for Developing Countries; its successor, the Division for Regional Activities; and one of the division's regional groups, the Section on Regional Activities: Asia. Also presented are seven guidelines for planning future section programs and an outline of the section's Mid-Term Programme for 1980-1985 for library education and academic, public, children's, and special libraries. In "Modern Technology and Its Impact on Libraries and Information Centres in Developing Countries," P. K. Patil (India) reviews the precepts of the Universal Availability of Publications program, the extent of library automation in technologically developed countries, factors inhibiting information technology transfer, Third World developments in information technology, possible negative side effects of imported technology, the possibility of technological independence through collaboration and alliances, and the development of national information policies and programs. (ESR)

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IFLA IN ASIA/ A REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL SECTION FOR ASIA

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IFLA IN ASIA: A REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE REGIONAL SECTION FOR ASIA

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INTRODUCTION

The official date of IFLA's foundation is usually acknowledged to be 1927. For a few years, the organization functioned as a Committee, being known as the International Library and Bibliographical Committee with delegates from European and American associations. The terms of reference of the Committee were relatively modest being "to select the time and place for the international library conferences and with the cooperation of the local committee, to prepare programmes for such conferences and to make investigations and recommendations concerning internal relations between libraries and other agencies." (Harvard-Williams, 1977, p.204). In 1929, the name of the Committee (which now had a membership of 22) was changed to that of International Federation of Library Associations (and, subsequently, modified in 1976 to include the addition of "and Institutions"). From the very beginning, IFLA functioned mainly through a system of specialized committees, and this has remained basically its mode of operation, although today many of these committees are known as

Divisions, Sections, Round Tables, Working Groups and the like to reflect the status of the committees concerned.

For a long time, IFLA remained an essentially European organization despite the "international" in its name. The participation of Third World countries was almost non-existent. This is of course not surprising since many of the Third World countries until after World War II were still colonies. But even after many had achieved independence, the situation did not change very much. In 1954, the late Ranganathan, creator of the Colon Classification, wrote:

> "Since 1948 I have attended several meetings of IFLA. They have been all courtesy. But in their proposals and action, the old view that 'international' in IFLA is exhausted by Western Europe and Northern America persists. The rest of the world is 'underdeveloped'. Even an explicit suggestion that those outside the ring should have their share of places in the inner bodies and the cabinet of IFLA receives only a benign sign of disapproval. The corner of the eyes suggests 'Don't be presumptious.'" (Quoted in Fang, J.S. and Songe, A.H., 1978, p.43).

Despite Ranganathan's plea, there was essentially no change in the character of IFLA for a long time, and IFLA did not truly become a world federation until the time of Herman Liebaars, who was President from 1970 to 1974. Under Liebaars began a series of IFLA pre-session seminars for librarians from the developing

countries, which enabled them to participate in the IFLA meetings which followed. The first seminar was held in Tashkent in 1970. This was followed by a seminar for librarians from English-speaking countries in Liverpool in 1971; one for the French-speaking countries in Grenoble in 1973; and a third one for Spanish-speaking participants in Washington in 1974.

As far as the developing countries are concerned, the Liverpool seminar was an important milestone, for it was at Liverpool that a resolution was put forward to the IFLA General Council to establish a Working Group for Developing Countries, which could focus more closely on the needs and problems of the developing world. The man most responsible for the creation of this group was Joseph S. Soosai, the Librarian of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia, who criticised IFLA for its Eurocentric orientation and urged that a concerted effort be made by IFLA to attract more Third World countries into its fold. In 1971, as J.S. Soosai has succintly put it, IFLA was just a "four-letter word" as far as the developing countries were concerned.

The question one may wish to explore is whether in the decade or so since the establishment of the Working Group (now reconstituted as the Division for Regional Activities), there has been any rising consciousness among the developing countries about IFLA and vice versa. This question can only be answered by examining more closely the work of the activities of the IFLA Working Group for Developing Countries and its successor the Division for Regional Activities. In this paper, attention will also be paid towards examining the role of the Regional Section on Asia as a

vehicle for promoting IFLA's activities among the developing countries in Asia.

THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The setting up of the Working Group at Liverpool appears to have been based on the premise that developing world librarians would have difficulty in getting into the major decision-making bodies of IFLA, and consequently it was necessary to set up a Working Group which could act as a medium or vehicle to get their views across to the various Divisions and Sections of IFLA. In addition, the Working Group would act as the conduit to channel IFLA programmes which were of interest or benefit to the developing countries. This premise was and appears still to be a realistic one. Until 1980 all IFLA Congresses were held in either Europe or North America. This effectively inhibited participation by librarians from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Although the introduction of the IFLA pre-session seminars had resulted in greater participation by librarians from the Third World, this participation was limited because of the relatively small number that could be sponsored to attend. In addition, the low priority accorded to libraries by many Third World governments made it difficult for librarians from developing countries to attend IFLA meetings without outside sponsorship. The Working Group therefore represented the only effective means whereby developing world librarians could ensure that their voice was heard, however feebly, in the important councils of IFLA.

But from the very beginning the Working Group faced many problems that are inherent in a Group of this kind. Firstly,

to speak of the developing countries as though they constitute one uniform group of countries is very unrealistic. Superficially, they have many common characteristics - large populations, a weak industrial base, low incomes, and a very undeveloped information infrastructure. But their differences are also very pronounced. Not only are there differences in languages, cultures, attitudes, and modes of thinking, but there are also substantial differences in political organizations, in the economic conditions and in the ways their libraries are structured. Even within a country, the balance of development among different types of libaries is very uneven - at one end of the spectrum you may find university libraries with all the professional staff, collections, modern technology and paraphernalia commonly found in the developed libraries of Europe and North America; at the other end you have the pitiably undermanned and under-provided collections that can hardly be called libraries.

Secondly, the developing world is so vast and diverse that it is impossible to select a committee that is truly representative of all spectrums of opinions and interests, especially as most of the committee members are usually selected on the basis of their presence at a particular IFLA meeting when nominations take place. The first Working Group, for example, comprised two Asians, two Africans and one representative from the Caribbean (presumably to represent the whole of Latin America). To be fair to the Working Group, it must be stated that they were not unaware of the weaknesses of this kind of representation, and at their meeting in August 1972, the Group suggested the establishment of a permanent secretariat to coordinate and promote the Group's activities; the appointment of national

correspondents to act as a link between the Group and the librarians within a particular country; and the enlargement of the Group with a more representative one.

Thirdly, the Group faced financial problems. To be effective, the members of the Working Group had to communicate frequently with one another. This meant that they had to have funds to correspond as well as travel. They also needed funds to promote IFLA programmes in the developing countries. Fortunately for the Group, they managed in 1973 to obtain funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, through the initiative of the Canadian Library Association, to set up a permanent secretariat in Kuala Lumpur. The funds were also to be used over an eighteen months' period to support professional activities and projects in developing countries as well as meet the travel expenses of the members of the Group.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Working Group for Developing Countries was established with great hopes and some fanfare. Their early achievements, however, must, be examined against the background of their objectives and purposes The Working Group was created "to act as a coordinating agency with the other Sections and Committees of IFLA and to provide a forum for discussion of library problems of common interest to developing countries ..." (Soosai, 1981, p.20).

In this respect, one may say that the record of their early achievements was mixed. Although I have examined the annual reports of the Working Group I have been unable to find a coherent statement of the philosophy behind the actual activities and programmes of the

Group. They seem to have been formulated on an ad hoc basis from time to time, and on the basis of requests made by members. Thus at the first meeting of the Group at Tashkent in April, 1971, the programme of activities suggested was that priority should be given towards supporting the INTAMEL research projects and INTAMEL exchange of staff programmes. Subsequent annual reports make no more mention of these programmes. Similarly, the development of minimum standards for library education, and the possibility of developing programmes for university libraries in the developing countries were also discussed. But when we examine the list of projects recommended to the IFLA Board for approval for the 1973-1974 period, for example, there is only one project which refers to university libraries. The other projects mentioned for support included a mixed bag of unrelated projects, such as the following:

1. Commissioning of special numbers of library association journals, featuring articles on major problems of library development
2. Regional bibliographical project on UBC for Southeast Asia
3. Cataloguing problems
4. Assistance for publication
5. Public libraries survey
6. Standards for young university libraries
7. Subsidy towards conference organization.

The two projects which appeared to have been fairly important namely the public libraries survey by the Pakistan Library Association and the formulation of Standards for young university libraries were both

cancelled in 1974 because of the lack of response from the organizations which had originally requested this funding.

Two weaknesses can be identified in the early activites of the Regional Working Group which have yet to be eliminated. The first relates to the lack of a clear direction in their sponsorshop of projects. Even when projects were recommended for support, there was no clear rationale as to why some projects or programme were supported and others were not. The second one stemmed from the absence of an evaluation process which could determine the viability or otherwise of a project proposal. The net result of this was that some projects were either never completed or did not even get off the ground.

In spite of these deficiencies, it must be admitted that the Working Group did much to promote IFLA activities in the developing countries. This they did through the circulation of a newsletter and through representing the interests of the developing countries in the major councils of IFLA. Two tangible results of their activities were (a) a quantum jump in the number of developing countries which became national members of IFLA and (b) the decision of IFLA to allow librarians from developing countries (who had not been elected according to the normal procedures) to sit on many important committees as observers. Because of the relatively informal manner in which many committees are run, an observer can usually get a fair hearing and have his views and suggestions incorporated into the programmes of the committees concerned.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIVISION FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

By 1974 various fissiparous tendencies had developed in the Regional Working Group for Developing Countires. This began with the establishment of a Working Group for French Speaking Countries in 1973 at Grenoble. As the establishment of working group on the basis of language was not viewed with favour, a move began to create groups by regions.

At the General Council meeting in Washington 1974, the delegates of the developing countries recommended the following:

1. That the programme for developing countries should be organised on a regional basis, with provisions for the establishment of regional secretariats where possible in cooperation with other organisations whose interests are related to the work of IFLA.
2. That the IFLA Executive Board establish the necessary machinery to coordinate the programme of the Regional Groups and ensure representation of the developing countries in the policy making machinery of IFLA.
3. That the IFLA Executive Board should consider providing adequate funds for such programmes initiated by the Regional Groups and endorsed by the coordinating machinery for developing countries.

The recommendations of the Working Group were accepted by the Executive Board, and at its meeting in Hague in 1975, the Board

agreed to establish three regional groups: one each for Africa, Latin America & the Carribean, and Asia. In August, 1976 when the Division of Regional Activities was formed, the various regional groups were reconstituted as Sections of that Division.

THE SECTION ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES: ASIA

The Section on Asia, in a sense, had a head start over the other regional sections. This was largely due to the fact that Mr. J.S. Soosai, who was then Chairman of the Regional Working Group for Developing Countries, became also the Chairman of the Asian Section. At the same time the Regional Secretariat located in his institition at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was reconstituted as the secretariat for the Asian Section.

As Soosai has pointed out the Asian Regional Section is by far the largest of the three sections, having a total membership of 135, which is equivalent to the total membership of the other two sections. He has also pointed out the difficulty of coordinating and promoting meaningful programmes in an area that is larger than the total area of Europe, North America and Australia combined. (Soosai, 1981, p.20).

In spite of the many difficulties encountered in dealing with the whole of Asia, the Section chalked up many successes, some tangible and others less tangible.

The first success was the vast increase in IFLA membership from Third World countries and more specifically from Asia. In 1972, there were 48 members from about 30 countries, including 34

from Asia, 7 from Africa and 7 from Latin America and the Caribbean. By 1980, the membership figures had grown to 249 members from 65 countries, with 135 from Asia, 67 from Africa and 47 from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The second achievement may be said to be the Section's success in persuading the previously conservative IFLA Board to hold meetings outside Europe and North America. The first tentative step towards this was the holding of an IFLA World Wide Seminar in Seoul, Korea in 1976. Although not a full-fledged IFLA Congress, it showed that some developing countires had the capacity to organize large international professional conferences. The success of the World Wide Seminar probably paved the way for the holding of the first IFLA Congress in a developing country (Manila in the Philippines) in 1980, and that in turn began the trend towards holding IFLA Congresses in non-traditional countries such as Kenya (Nairobi) in 1984, Japan (Tokyo) in 1986 and Australia in 1988.

The Asian Section was in the forefront where supporting projects and programmes were concerned. Its Annual report for 1976/1977, for example, listed some 8 projects recommended to the IFLA Executive Board for support. The most important one was the ELIPA (Experienced Library and Information Personnel in Asia) Project. This project is essentially one of creating a computerized data base containing the biodata of experienced library and information personnel in Asia. The purpose of such a data base was to identify individuals with the required expertise who could be called upon to undertake consultancy work in the region. The project is being

coordinated by the Korean Institute of Science and Technology in Seoul and the development work was funded not only by IFLA but also by FID and IDRC (International Development and Research Centre).

Apart from ELIPA, a number of other projects were also supported and these included the organization of regional seminars and conferences, a compedium of library education courses, compilation of uniform headings of corporate bodies and the development of a computer-based union catalogue of serials. However, many of these projects were still-born, and quite a number were still in progress even after a number of years. The only projects which seemed to have succeeded were those where funds were provided to subsidise the cost of running a conference or seminar or to support the cost of publishing the proceedings of these seminars or conferences.

One problem faced by the Section was the paucity of requests for support in respect of in-depth research or investigation. The second difficulty faced by the Section was in evaluating the worth of a project on the basis of a project proposal. Even with the help of the Professional Board of IFLA it was often difficult to judge the viability of a project or even of the capabilities of the persons or organizations to complete the project successfully. The third problem was that because of limited funding, there was a reluctance to fund "expensive" projects, and as a result the average amount of support per project was usually less than US$3,000.00. The final difficulty was one of communication. Not only were postal communications time-consuming, but the addressees usually did not respond to frequent reminders for progress reports.

The Section also faced some weaknesses in terms of its membership and objectives. Some of the members of the committee did not appear to take their responsibilities seriously. As a result, some of them did not provide the requisite support and contribution to the work of the Section. This is by no means an unusual phenomenon, for many IFLA committees seem to suffer the same fate, and come alive only shortly before an IFLA Congress. Like most of the other IFLA Committees, the Section is plagued by the lack of funds so that it is always difficult for the members to meet. Because distances are closer in Europe, it may not be as difficult for the European members of some IFLA committees to meet more frequently than would be possible for a body such as the Section on Asia where distances are measured in thousands of miles rather than hundreds.

Finally, the Section seemed to lack a coherent programme of activity. Most of the projects and the direction of the programmes were dependent upon the submissions of individuals and organizations rather than on a well-planned course action developed by the Section. As a result, projects of varying degrees of usefulness were supported or not supported not so much on the basis of the benefits that would accrue but more on the quantum of the funding requested.

In 1980 at a meeting of the Section on Asia in Kuala Lumpur, there was a serious attempt to develop a comprehensive programme, which could be incorporated into the Mid-Term Programme of IFLA.

In the general preamble were included the following points:

1. That serious consideration be made to dividing up the Asian regional section into further regional sub-groupings.
2. That wherever possible Asian expertise should be used to provide advice and assistance in the planning and development of library services in Asia.
3. That more regional meetings should be encouraged.
4. That more practical and meaningful projects for library development should be implemented.
5. That there should be published biennial reviews of library development in Asia.

However, the Professional Programme suggested the Mid-term Programme was very general and perhaps too ambitious. (See Appendix). It covered the whole range of librarianship and priority sectors were not indicated. Perhaps those who formulated this programme did not intend the Regional Section on Asia to implement the programme on its own but meant to draw the attention of the various Divisions, Sections and Committees of IFLA to the need to plan programmes which would be of benefit to Asia.

However, since all parties are generally aware of the limited funds available to IFLA, a more limited and focussed programme of activities would have been more practicable and effective.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

There is no doubt the decision taken in 1971 to establish a Working Group (later Division) to look after the interests of the developing countries was an unprecedented development in IFLA's

history. As Joseph Soosai, one of the prime movers of this decision, has pointed out the establishment of the Working Group "triggered off a chain reaction which brought about one of the most successful and dramatic changes in IFLA's relationship with the Third World" (Soosai, 1981, p.20).

In 1979, for the first time in IFLA's history, a librarian from a developing country, namely Mr. Soosai himself, was elected to the IFLA Executive Board. Thus Ranganathan's hope expressed a quarter of a century earlier was finally realized. This election to the IFLA Board would not have been possible without the springboard provided by the Regional Working Group (and its successor the Division of Regional Activities). It is indeed gratifying that the librarian who has been the most active in promoting the interests of the developing countries has finally received recognition by the IFLA membership.

The Division of Regional Acitivities and its constituent sections remain the focal point of Third World interests. Its recommendations and plans permeate into all aspects of work of the other seven professional divisions. In order that the gains that have been made by the Third World countries are not frittered away through ill-planned projects and programmes, I would like to suggest some guidelines for the consideration of the Division of Regional Activities and more specifically the Section on Asia. These guidelines should be used in planning the future programmes of the Section.

1. Any programme that is supported should as far as possible benefit more than one country or one

institution. For example, the development of a transportable micro-computer based library system (which can be used by many countries) should be given priority over a project which benefits only one country, e.g. funding support to publish a particular issue of a library journal or to organize a local library conference.

2. More money should be spent on a few significant projects rather than spreading the largesse thinly among a number of insignificant projects. If possible, all projects should be evaluated by a team of experts/consultants before final approval is given. Evaluation should be based on viability of the project, its ultimate benefit to the region, and the capabilities of the individual or individuals who proposed the project to complete it.

3. The Regional Section should concentrate on one or two projects each year rather than dissipate its energies on a multitude of projects.

4. Because of the possible ripple effects, regional training courses of key personnel should be encouraged.

5. The development of regional library standards should be promoted. It is still true that standards which have IFLA's imprimatur tend to be accorded greater attention by national authorities than those developed by the local professionals.

6. The Section should try to work more closely with local library associations, since for better or for worse, these associations are usually the only vehicle whereby the collective voice of the local library profession can be heard. In countries where more than one professional association exists, no discrimination should be shown in establishing links with all the library associations concerned.

7. Finally, all projects and programmes should be focussed on the primary objective of IFLA as enunciated in its new constitution of 1976: "to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity, including bibliography, information sciences, and the education of personnel, and to provide a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest." (Wijnstroom, 1976, p.224).

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IFLA DIVISION OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

THE SECTION ON ASIA

MEDIUM TERM PROGRAM, 1980-1985

Large General and Academic Libraries:

1. To promote the establishment of effective National Library Services in countries where this is lacking or in different stages of development.

2. To study the roles of the National Libraries in the promotion of UBC and UAP and legislative requirements.

3. To strengthen existing links between National Libraries in the region to promote greater regional library co-operation.

University Libraries:

1. To develop and support programmes to encourage greater sharing of the vast resources of University Libraries to meet the growing information needs of the country.

2. To study the special problems of University Libraries in the Asian Region. The role of University Libraries in the national system.

Public Libraries:

1. To encourage the setting up of a public libraries system as part of the national development plan in countries that do not already have such a system.

2. Considering the vast rural population in most of the countries in Asia, particular attention to be given to the needs of the rural community. Joint programmes to be developed with the ICAE, and other community development organizations to study the most effective means of keeping the rural community well informed.

Children's Libraries:

1. To inculcate the reading habit in children in the Third World countries by continuing programmes of the role and importance of libraries as resource centres.

2. To interact with publishers, booksellers, etc. to ensure that appropriate reading material is made available to meet the needs of new libraries and children in the Third World countries. Greater encouragement is to be given to the publication of appropriate literature in the national language.

3. To make the school library an essential and integral part of the school curriculum and to draw up minimum standards for school libraries in the Asian Region.

4. Greater encouragement to be given to promote library services for the handicapped in the developing countries.

Special Libraries:

1. To assist in the establishment and development of special libraries as important centres of information.

2. To develop a programme of continuing education for the special library staff to acquaint them with the latest techniques in library mechanization and computerization.

Library Education:

1. Comparative study of the standards of library education in the region with a view to encouraging reciprocal recognition of qualifications.

2. The compilation of theses and academic exercises in library and information science produced in the library schools of the region.

3. The organization of regional workshops as part of the continuous education programmes in specialised topics of library and information science.

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IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division: REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Section: ASIA

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MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPACT ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

Libraries in whatever form they existed, used a vast variety of devices and materials from clay, papyrus, paper and the printing press to audio-visual aids and large data banks of computerised information, to make available to large community the accumulated knowledge of few scholars. Essentially, Libraries are engaged in the transfer of knowledge without which no worthwhile teaching, learning and research is possible. In the past, limited number of readers visiting the Library, were left to themselves to gather the information they wanted from the available resources, mostly within the four walls of the Library with their own efforts and rarely made use of intermediary agencies to exploit the resources. With the exponential growth of new advances in Science, Technology and the Social Sciences, the number of information producers and users increased many fold. "Information explosion" resulting in a proliferation of publications both in size and scope, the advent of variety of newer media available for collecting and disseminating information, the growth of specialisation in various disciplines and the emergence of the inter-disciplinary nature of research have all contributed in creating a complex situation in organising Libraries for the benefit of users[1]. Thus, efficiency of the modern Librarianship essentially depends on how best we adopt appropriate bibliographical apparatus and how effectively we avail the benefits of computer technology and data processing equipment, which have so far provided viable and swift communication aiming to conquer time and space. The pressures put on Library services envisage new approaches

to solve intricate problems. The need of the hour is to adopt new structural arrangements to have deliberate and discreet co-operation and co-ordination in pooling the resources by participating in global information system in order to establish a link between various units in a most pragmatic way to provide the best information service in the most economical and effective manner.

Universal Availability of Publications

With the growth of publications consequent upon improvement in printing technology, the need for universal availability of publications assumed greater importance in the changed context and world wide attention was drawn from activities undertaken for long time in individual countries, at IFLA meetings and other organisations including UNESCO. Similarly, Universal Bibliographical Control, the concept which originated with IFLA proved as a pre-requisite to achieve objectives of Universal Availability of Publications[2]. It is stated that the

> NATIS concept implies that the Government - National, State or Local should maximise the availability of all relevant information through documentation, library and archival services[3].

In the process of implementing resource sharing capabilities on global level, individual libraries in each country will have to play their own part by such means as Union Catalogues, the organisation of Library system etc., in order to make publications readily available. We have to keep in view the strength of individual units in the general scheme of linking the sources of information, before we translate into action many of plans and schemes designed for National, Regional and International co-operation in providing access to information. It has been rightly pointed out,

> ... barriers to access are reduced and a National network is perfected, it must be emphasized that the strength of the network depends on the strength of the outstanding collection that it links[4].

Hence, it should be emphasized that the strength of collection not merely depends on quality and quantity of resources that are mobilised but how such resources are put to use effectively by means of organised methods.

Library Automation in Technologically Developed Countries

Library automation has amply demonstrated that with the application of computer technology and data processing equipment combined with more extensive use of microform techniques, the existing library operations are taking a new turns, although the basic functions of a library will remain the same. One of the strong grounds for adopting modern technology is mainly due to actual or expanding cost factors of the entire system.

When situation demands to integrate a number of previously separate units into one system under one central authority in order to work out feasible programmes of resources sharing, external factors, such as the progress achieved in Computer Technology both in terms of hardware and software, the availability of commercial services and the lead the National Library gives in a wide range of activities connected with acquisition and storage, the provisions of bibliographical services and development programmes of common interest by way of shared systems, made it easier to introduce modern technology for library operations in developed countries. With technological development, it is possible to publish the National Union Catalogue of books indicating holdings of each library. When joint efforts are made, it would eliminate a good deal of duplications in library holdings and facilitate inter-library co-operation. The use of tele-fascimile or slow scan T.V. for transfering the information between libraries, when it becomes a reality, many of the problems now found in the Inter-Library Co-operation will be solved.

A good successful example is the centralized cataloguing services based on the use of MARC tapes

produced by the Library of Congress, BNB and other National Bibliographers. OCLC and Standford University's BALLOTS both are interesting projects designed to have access to cataloguing records made available by project MARC in addition to records created by each system. The Birmingham Libraries Co-operation Mechanisation Project has shown how effective cooperation between libraries of different types is possible.

For modern library management library statistical data is extensively used. As an off-shoot of computerization it has become now possible to collect and arrange variety of statistical data, which could be utilised for appropriate decision making just as industrial and commercial organisations use econometric data. For instance, circulation figures will give variety of statistical data to determine the composition of users and their needs, etc. which would have been well-high impossible to collect manually with conventional methodology.

Considerable progress has been made on the procedural technology for storage and retrieval system, automated indexing and classification. The establishment of Data-Banks and Data Centres is one of the important achievement of the modern technology providing new methods in automated library service. Technology available for miniaturization of documents and for reprography will in due course revolutionise the library system. Among the mission oriented systems, the experiment carried out in the field of education in USA are worth mentioning. INTREX (Information Transfer Equipment) Project is designed to provide on-line access to information source at remote terminal first within Maschusetts Institute of Technology and then intended to be extended to any part of the U.S. Besides this project, EDUNET and ERIC deserve special mention. EDUNET Project when fully implemented will have far reaching impact on library management, current awareness and retrospective searching including research eg: on-line data recording, on-line simulation etc. and teaching itself, through connection with computer assisted information networks[5].

Change Process and Factors Contributing Technology Transfer

A change in the structure of library organisation has influence on the service to its clients. Also a change among the clientele of library may require the adoption of new organisational structure. Thus change agents concerned with altering organizations must have familiarity with change processes among individuals and must know something about change processes in organizations. In order to avail the benefit of modern technology in developing countries, we need to change, Social System and human attitudes and acquire knowledge and skills for development of technology[6].

Modern Technology enables us to carry on various human activities, cheaper, faster and more efficiently than what we are now doing. Secondly, modern technology has capability to do what we could not do at present. Thirdly, impact of modern technology on libraries and information centres has brough out new form of communication and contact in society, affecting all walks of life. The next question to be discussed would be to understand several factors and conditions inhibiting information technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries are as under:(6)

TABLE 1. Factors inhibiting information technology transfer.

General Factors	Conditions in Developing Countries
1. Economic	Labour intensive society Low availability of capital Inability to absorb recurring costs Expense of international activities Lack of internal competition
2. Manpower	Lack of available trained personnel Low prestige of information professionals Difficulty in recruiting specialists Lack of continuing education Inexperience in working in teams
3. Physioecological	Limited resources Geographic isolation
4. Cultural, demographic, and social.	Large percentage of unskilled workers Language barriers Fear of modern technology Inaccurate expectations of technology Information-seeking behavior of scientists and technicians

TABLE 1. (Contd..)

General Factors	Conditions in Developing Countries
5. Political	Unstable governments Need for tight security and secrecy Constantly changing priorities Centralization of decision makers Lack of scientific impact at highest levels of government
6. Existing information infrastructure	Poor quality of telephone service Inadequacy of postal service Tight, stringent customs systems Inability to join telecommunication networks Lack of library and information standards Insufficient hard-copy collections Absence of sufficient informal information flow

Information Technology in Developing Countries

In the Indian contaxt, there are many interesting developments in the field of information technology. In the first instance number of readers are increasing in developing countries and they are in need of most efficient and timely access to relevant information or documents than what is presently available. It is well known that India has low level of literacy. Still when we consider the growth rate between 1971 and 1981, it is significant to note that 50 millions more people have become literate in the course of the last decade - a figure almost equal to the entire population of France. Growth in literacy levels as well as emphasis on non-formal education are expected to continue unabated* this in turn will lead to greater demand at all sectors of society to seek more and more information not only through written documents but also through other media, such as Radio, T.V. cinemas etc. Thus in developing countries is presently available a variety of technologies when utilised properly, could significantly enhance information and literature access system. Neelameghan

*Note: The Ministry of Education, Govt.of India, has asked all the State Govts. to prepare operational plans for achieving a target of covering 100 Million illiterate populations under the Adult Education Programme by 1990.

has described important projects and programmes in India in the applications of remote sensing technology, Satellite communication and utilisation of Computers for information collection, processing and dissemention. Among many issues raised by Neelameghan for consideration, the one strikingly important for our purposes at this stage of development is the one given below:

> "What are the criteria for placing differential weightage and priorities for the allocation of resources on different information generation, collection, processing and transfer technologies in different socio-economic and technological contexts? In the interest of maximal benefit to the majority of people, how should the controls over the existing stock and the new flows of information be distributed, nationally and internationally?"[7]

The other important issue relates to under utilization of information services. R & D statistics indicate that the real difficulties facing most developing countries is the optional use of information technology. The statistics indicate that more than 75% of the world's R & D is performed in six advanced industrial nations (the US, USSR, Germany, France, Great Britain & Japan), and more than 90% is produced in 15 countries. The appreciation and receptiveness to information technology is mainly related to one's need to use information to produce new knowledge and this also explains why many countries that too limited in R & D also face difficulties in building support services such as Information Systems. Thus under utilization of capital equipment paid for in scarce foreign exchange (which is true of the majority if not all) is the most commonly cited problem. This sets in a vicious circle. Underutilization results in high cost and high cost in turn results in underutilization.

Michael D. Gordon while discussing quality and quantity of scientific output, in technologically less developed countries, points out that the major problems faced by scientists are:

a) Poor library service
b) Geographical isolation and
c) Language barrier

Due to these and other problems, Scientists in developing countries do not get the required "current awareness service, which is very essential for high quality scientific output[8]".

Independence and one's own technological development, is a very slow process and we cannot expect to reach the required standard in the foreseeable future comparable to that of developed countries. This would also result in a relatively useless exercise to reinvent available technology, absorbing limited resources. The solutions offered for this problem are not one but many. One of them is adopted know-how (as different from imported technology). In order to avoid the negative side effects of imported technology, the strategy is to adopt technology on the basis of imported know how. In considering information technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries, the UNESCO recommended the adoption of 'appropriate technology' concepts to the information field. 'Appropriate Technology' means technology that is labour intensive, smaller in scale and more harmonious ecologically and culturally with its surroundings than similar technology used in developed countries. However, this raises the compatibility issue, since most information networks are global and require standardisation and integration. Hence, many suggest the alternative of information systems used in developed countries and transferred through training and limitation into developing countries. Thus the concept of appropriate technology that would be suitable to many developing countries still requires more examination.

The next alternative is technological independence through collaboration and alliances. Alliances among countries sharing common languages, religious, political or social systems is recommended as a means to eliminate negative aspects of imported technology. The main thesis of this approach is that technological

dependence can be successfully reduced by a pooling of human and financial resources to procure, operate, adopt and maintain advanced information processing and transmission systems. Under such joint ventures, all operational personnel can be recruited from the Alliance group. Similarly, a far greater amount of accommodation to country traditions, both in terms of Govt. organisation and social values, is possible.

Many of the developing countries do not have facilities provided by international data communication networks for on-line transmission. A two years pilot experiment was carried out in Egypt in order to introduce commercially available on-line service from U.S.A. Along with this project, a document delivery support system from abroad and its critical analysis and evaluation of the project is conducted to demonstrate and test the feasibility of introducing on-line computer accessed information services available in U.S.A. The results of this experiment of providing delayed computer accessed information service indicate the services was very well received by scientific community in Egypt. Document delivery service was not satisfactory due to the time lag of the service averaging 142 days[9].

Trends in Developing Countries

One of the significant developments in India during the last decade was the establishment of the Electronic Commission in 1971 to formulate national policy for the electronic field as well as to co-ordinate activities connected with the Electronic Industry including the Computer field. In turn Electronic Commission has prepared a National Informatics Centre (NIC) at Delhi. Goals and objectives set by NIC Project are mentioned by Neelameghan in his article entitled "Information technology: Application in development-catalysing activities in India"[10].

Mainly due to the efforts of UNESCO through its UNISIST - NATIS Programmes, preceptible change in the information environment in developing countries can be

observed. Many of the countries, more so the developing ones, have embarked on ambitious (perhaps over expecting), systems of National Information Systems, along with a formulation of National Information Policies. These Programmes and Policies, have naturally, incorporated the adoption and utilization of Information technologies. As a result various piolot studies and experimental programmes on a smaller scale have been initiated. The Indian example can be cited here. Under the NISSAT Programmes, at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, a Pilot SDI service for selected Scientists using the CAN/SDI software and CA condensutes, INSPEC tapes has been initiated. The on-line RECON experiment, Bombay, can also be cited.

In addition to these computerized programmes, in the area of other information technologies like Reprographic, microfilming equipment etc. a considerable improvement has been made. For eg. the Sectoral information centres that are identified under the NISSAT programme have been very well equipped with modern reprographic and microfilming facilities.

Apart from these trends due to the NISSAT, several individual libraries and information centres have also initiated computerization programmes. At present, computerization is mainly limited to certain house keeping activities like Serials Control, Circulation Control etc. However, this development is almost solely confined to special libraries and information centres attached to R & D organizations, industries, IITs etc. At the University level, the UGC has contributed towards introduction of computers in the Universities. But at the Public Libraries level, computers and modern technologies are still a far cry and long way off.

C O N C L U S I O N

With the growth of complexities in Library operations, it is proved beyond doubt that many library problems cannot be solved by simple manual techniques; just as in other walks of life, libraries have to adopt and benefit from the modern technology in order to

survive and continue to grow. The successful implementation and use of a new technology have been based on the combination of many factors such as, technical, human, political and cost factors and these will influence even in the future whether or not a library should adopt modern technology. Modern technology and managerial techniques evolved during the last few years in developed countries are no substitute for a capable and efficient administrator, who could use these tools to achieve the goals set for libraries. The prospects of introducing modern technology in developing countries depends on administrative, physical and operational decisions. Once such plans and programmes are designed and proper guidelines are provided with adequate financial support, it will be possible to establish and manage an effective information network in developing countries. Further, such a system finally created with its infrastructure, may give lead for the establishment of world-wide information network activities.

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